



CITY OF CHICOPEE

MAYOR MICHAEL D. BISSONNETTE

For Immediate Release

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CITY OF CHICOPEE'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

"As Memorial Day approaches, it is time to pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the profound contribution they have made to securing our Nation's freedom, we should honor them especially on Memorial Day."

The Chicopee Veterans' Memorial and Patriotic Committee and the Chicopee Department of Veterans' Services ask that all Americans come together to recognize how "fortunate we are to live in freedom and to observe a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service". Please join us in marching in the Chicopee Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, 2011.

The Parade will assemble at 8:30 am at Dana Park on Newbury Street and step off at 10:00 am. The Parade will march down Springfield Street to Fairview Avenue, proceed down Fairview Avenue to Bonneville Avenue and on to the Chicopee Veterans' Memorial Plaza at the old CHS. A ceremony will be held at the Veterans' Plaza @ 11:15am on Front Street in Chicopee in front of the Old Chicopee High School. The Civil War Monument, Vietnam Monument, WWI Monument, WWII Monument, a Cross representing the War on Terrorism and Korean War Monument are all located within the Veteran's Plaza. Following the ceremony, the gold star families are invited back to American Legion Post 275, Charles C. Kennedy Post on Robbins Road for a luncheon in their honor and sacrifice to our country.

Friday, May 27, 2011 beginning at 8:30, local veteran organizations will be visiting Chicopee Schools with a Memorial Service and a brief history of Memorial Day and placing of a wreath at the flag pole. "Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember those who served our country during its many wars and gave their lives for our freedom"; followed by the pledge of allegiance and National Anthem. American Legion Post 353, 438, 337 and Korean War Veterans of American Chapter 2000 will visit: Lambert-Lavoie, St. Joan of Arc, Stefanik and Belcher, Litwin, Barry, Stefanik, Bowe, Holy Name, St. Stanislaus, Belcher, Fairview Memorial, Selser, and Strieber.

On Sunday, May 29th at the Vietnam Plaza on Chicopee Street there will be a Candle-light Ceremony at 7:00 PM by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111.